



Work-Related Deaths & Injuries



For 2022 year-to-date, there have been two work-related deaths in the BC forestry industry. We extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the deceased and our sympathies to all those affected by these tragic incidents.

Recent work-related incidents reported to WorkSafeBC

The following sample of work-related incidents recently reported to WorkSafeBC may help prevent similar incidents in your workplace.

HARVESTING

Injury: Multiple fractures
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking / Helicopter logging
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2022-Sept
A hand faller felled a red cedar tree. The falling tree pushed over another, weakly rooted red cedar. A third tree (short, stubby danger tree) sharing the second tree's root system fell back and upslope from the faller, resulting in the faller being struck by a dead top. The injured worker received first aid on site and was transported to hospital by helicopter.

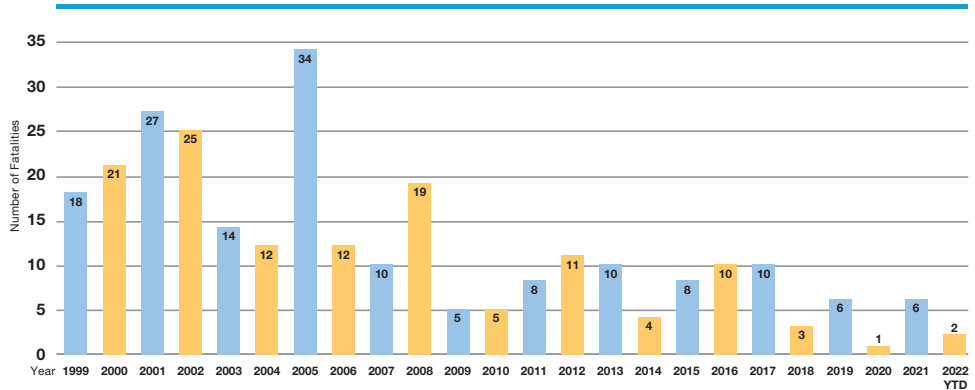
Injury: Undetermined injuries to upper body (1 worker)
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2022-Aug

A manual faller was working in a cutblock for helicopter logging. The worker was moving away from the base of the tree being felled when they were grazed (glancing blow) by the butt end of a previous felled tree in a chain reaction. The worker contacted their falling partner and was treated by the first aid attendant then transported to hospital by the site helicopter.

Injury: Multiple fractures (1 worker)
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking
Location: Northern BC
Date of Incident: 2022-Aug

A faller was falling trees for road construction. The worker was moving away from the base of the tree being felled when they were struck by a smaller hemlock tree that had been hung up in the canopy. The worker briefly lost consciousness but was later able to contact their falling partner for help.

WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



This information represents the number of work-related deaths by year in BC, up until August, 2022.

Injury: Bruised back, sore shoulder
Core Activity: Cable or hi-lead logging
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2022-Jul
A turn of logs (two choked balsam logs about 25 metres long) was being yarded uphill. As the logs went over a chunk of broken deadfall cedar (6 metres long) with an attached rootwad, the chunk suddenly rotated and struck a worker standing 9 metres away from the moving rigging.

Injury: Concussion, fractures
Core Activity: Dump truck operation / Sawmill
Location: Lower Mainland
Date of Incident: 2022-Sept
A worker was standing on the back of a wheeled loader, cleaning it with compressed air. The worker fell about 4 feet to grade.

Injury: Injuries to fingers
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2022-Aug
A young worker was undoing a lumber cross-up on a transfer table when several fingers of one of their hands were pinched between pieces of lumber.

MANUFACTURING

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Pellet mill
Location: Interior BC
Date of Incident: 2022-Oct
A fire occurred in the enclosed conveyor system between the dry fibre monitoring deck and the hammer mill building. The tent cover over the dry shavings was burned but no one was injured. The fire department extinguished the fire.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Northern BC
Date of Incident: 2022-Oct
While a worker was performing maintenance and testing on a log loader, the loader lurched forward and struck a small, metal storage building.

Injury: Fractured arm (1 worker)
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Northern BC
Date of Incident: 2022-Oct
Two workers were replacing drive belts on a canter log deck drive unit. The gearbox for the drive unit is equipped with a brake, mounted to the drive unit frame. The workers were removing the brake assembly in order to install the drive belts. The brake assembly was under tension and when the last bolt was removed, the assembly spun around, striking one worker.

TRANSPORTATION

Injury: Concussion
Core Activity: Log hauling
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2022-Sept
A loaded off-highway log transporter (chubby/fat truck) was descending an in-block haul road. The truck failed to negotiate a steep (23 percent) switchback, drove off the road over a steep embankment (70 percent), and rolled onto the driver's side, spilling the load onto a previously logged area and the road below.

Injury: Close call
Core Activity: Log hauling / Integrated forest management
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal BC
Date of Incident: 2022-Sept
A loaded log transporter failed to negotiate a corner on a section of highway and rolled over into the ditch. A passerby helped the driver out of the cab. 🚗